REMARKS

Claims 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims 23 – 28 are canceled.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph because of "a single means claim", i.e., "a docking device class circuit". Claim 17 is amended to include multiple elements. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10, 17-20 and 39-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Meyerson et al.* (U.S. 5,579,487). Claims 39 – 49 are canceled for reasons not related to the *Meyerson et al.* patent. Independent claims 1 and 17 are amended.

In particular, amended claim 1 now states:

1.   (Amended) A method comprising:

        detecting, by a portable computer system, a docking device class circuit present in a docking station to which the portable computer system is docked, on a bus, the portable computer system and the docking station being connected by a bus therebetween ; and

        obtaining, by the portable computer system, -a description of at least one device in a the docking station from the docking device class circuit.

Amended claim 17 now states:

17.   (Amended) A docking station comprising:

a docking connector for coupling a portable computer system to the docking station; and

a docking device class circuit, coupled to the docking connector, the docking device class circuit providing the portable computer system with a description of at least one device in the docking station

The PTO provides in MPEP §2131..."To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim...". Therefore, to sustain this rejection the *Meyerson et al.* patent must contain all of the claimed elements of amended independent claims 1 and 17. *Meyerson et al.* teach a portable computer which includes an integral docking assembly for receiving a plurality of modules. In other words, *Meyerson et al.* teach a portable computer where the portable computer and the docking assembly are one and the same. However, amended claims 1 and 17 recite a separate docking station and portable computer system. The combinations claimed in amended claims 1 and 17 are not shown or taught in the *Meyerson et al.* patent. Thus the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.
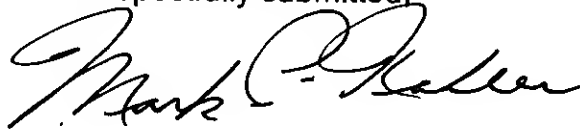
Therefore, independent claims 1 and 17, along with the claims dependent therefrom, namely claims 2 – 10 and 18 – 20, are submitted to be allowable. The withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to claims 11 – 16, 21 and 22 as being dependent upon respective rejected base claims. These claims have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the claims on which they originally

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depended. It is thus respectfully requested that the objection to claims 11 – 16, 21 and 22 be withdrawn. Allowance of these claims is now requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that remaining claims 1 – 22 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this patent application would be advanced by a verbal discussion, the Examiner is requested to give Applicant's attorney a telephone call at (512) 867-8502 (direct line).
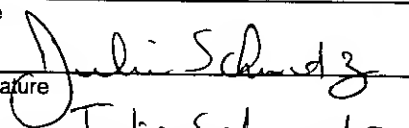
Respectfully submitted,

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